<u>Amendment to the Claims</u>:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

<u>**Listing of Claims**</u>:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting one of a plurality of service providers ~~which are available~~ <u>for connection</u> to a computer system ~~for connection to~~ <u>through</u> a network, the apparatus comprising:

at least one database containing data regarding parameters of each service provider and service quality requirements for service types; and

a decision making unit connected to said at least one database for selecting one of said plurality of service providers <u>to be connected to said computer system</u>, said selecting being made according to decision making criteria and said data from said at least one database<u>, and wherein said decision making unit includes a criteria unit for selecting criteria from multiple criteria to be used in making a decision for selecting one of the service providers and a decision making agent unit for making the decision based on said selected criteria</u>.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interface unit for displaying to a user the selected data provider.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an implementation agent for connecting said computer system to said selected provider.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further providing a tracking unit for updating data in said at least one database based on current conditions in said service providers.

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6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein said decision making unit further includes a logic unit for providing logic based on different decision criteria to said decision making agent unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one database includes a first database for storing pre-configured service quality requirements of each normal service type and a second database for storing parameters regarding each provider, including billing data, selection priority data, resource condition data and resource basic information data.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting one of a plurality of service providers for ~~connection~~ connection to a computer system ~~to~~ through a network, said method comprising:

storing data in at least one database regarding parameters of each service provider and service quality requirements for service types;

retrieving data from said at least one database;

selecting ~~specific~~ criteria from multiple criteria for making a decision related to said parameters and said service quality requirements; and

selecting one of said plurality of providers to be connected to said computer system based on said data ~~from said~~ stored by said at least one database and based on said selected criteria.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

providing logic based on different decision criteria so that said selecting is also based on said logic.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising displaying said selected provider to a user for approval.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising automatically connecting said computer system to said selected provider.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

updating said at least one database based on the real time state of each provider.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said at least one database includes a first database for storing ~~preconfigured~~ service quality requirements for each ~~normal~~ service type and a second database for storing resource data concerning each provider, including billing policies, selection priorities, resource condition data and resource ~~basic~~ information.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer network~~ system comprising:

a ~~computer~~ network;

~~a connectivity to said network controlled by~~ service providers;

a computer system selectively connected <u>through said network</u> to said <u>service providers</u> ~~pathways;~~ <u>and</u>

a selection device for selecting which service provider should be utilized ~~when connecting the computer system to the network~~, said selection device including at least one database storing data regarding parameters about ~~said~~ <u>each</u> service ~~providers~~ <u>provider</u> and service quality requirements <u>for service types</u> and a decision making unit for making said selection based on said data stored in said at least one database and on decision making criteria <u>for selecting criteria from multiple criteria</u> <u>to be used in making a decision for selecting one of the service providers to be</u> <u>connected through said network to said computer system</u>.

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18. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting one of a plurality of service providers ~~for~~ to be ~~connecting~~ connected to a computer system ~~to~~ through a network, comprising:

means for storing data in at least one database regarding parameters of each service provider and service quality requirement~~s~~;

means for retrieving data from said at least one database;

means for selecting ~~specific~~ criteria from multiple criteria to be used in making a decision for selecting one of the service providers based on said stored data ~~for making a decision;~~ and

means for selecting one of said plurality of service providers to be connected to said computer system through said network based on said stored data from said at least one database and on said selected criteria.

19. (New)   In a system including a computer system, a plurality of service providers, at least one database containing data regarding parameters of each service provider and service quantity requirements for service types and a decision making unit connected to said at least one database for selecting one of said plurality of service providers with said selecting being made according to decision making criteria and said data from said at least one database with said decision making unit including a criteria unit for selecting criteria from multiple criteria to be used in making a decision for selecting one of the service providers and an agent

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unit for making the decision based on said selected criteria, a service provider comprising:

a service provider which is selectively connectable to the computer system by a network with the service provider being selected form the plurality of service providers in accordance with the selected criteria based upon said stored data.

20. (New)   The apparatus of claim 1 comprising:

a user interface coupled to the decision making unit which provides information relating to a type of service to be provided from the service providers and information to be used in making a decision of selecting a service provider from the multiple service providers by the decision making unit.

21. (New)   The apparatus of claim 1 comprising:

a scheduling agent, which is coupled to the decision making unit, for controlling connection of the computer system to the selected service provider at a selected time.

22. (New)   The method of claim 8 comprising:

providing from a user interface information relating to a type of service to be provided from the service provider and information to be used in making a decision of selecting a service provider from the multiple service providers.

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23. (New)   The method of claim 8 comprising:

scheduling a selected time for connection of the computer system through the network to the selected service provider.

24. (New)   The system of claim 14 comprising:

a user interface coupled to the decision making unit which provides information relating to a type of service to be provided from the service providers and information to be used in making a decision of selecting a service provider from the multiple service providers by the decision making unit.

25. (New)   The system of claim 14 comprising:

a scheduling unit, which is coupled to the decision making unit, for controlling connection of the computer system through the network to the selected service provider at a selected time.

26. (New)   The system of claim 18 comprising:

a user interface coupled to the decision making unit which provides information relating to a type of service to be provided from the service providers and information to be used in making a decision of selecting a service provider from the multiple service providers by the decision making unit.

27. (New)   The system of claim 18 comprising:

a scheduling unit, which is coupled to the decision making unit, for controlling connection of the computer system to the selected service provider at a selected time.